operations and to enforce the provisions of the enactments. These duties are being performed by the Coast Guard (CG) with the present force level. Adequate provision has been made in the CG Development Plan 1997-2002 for procuring ships/aircrafts/equipment so as to undertake the operations required for prevention of smuggling and other unlawful activities. The CG ships and aircraft undertake various missions and operations to keep the maritime zones of India under surveillance for prevention of smuggling and other unlawful activities.

Insurgency in Kashmir

3980. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Armed forces blame the Central Government for Kashmir's security mismanagement as reported in the 'Asian Age' dated the 12th January, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the offensive proposed to wipe out insurgency in Kashmir ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Government are aware of the said news-report wherein certain views have been attributed to security officials. Such a projection is entirely incorrect. The views expressed by the journalist are entirely his own.

Appropriate steps continue to be taken to tackle the situation created by terrorists in J & K, aided and abetted by Pakistan. The security forces are engaged in relentless operations to foil the plans of the terrorists and their promoters.

Powers delegated to Hqr. by the MOD

3981. CHAUDHARY CHUNNI LAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MOD delegated the powers for posting of Colonel and Brigadier of AMC to Army Hqrs;

(b) if not, then under what provision AHQ is exercising the powers of transferring the above officers;

(c) how many officers of the above ranks of AMC has been transferred in 1998 and 1999 without approval of MOD;